

IN THE CLAIMS

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An animal feed composition comprising more than 240 microgram of free IAA or a derivative thereof per kilogram, wherein said derivative is selected from the group consisting of 4-hydroxy-IAA, 4-methoxy-IAA, 5-hydroxy-IAA, 5-methoxy-IAA, 6-hydroxy-IAA, 6-methoxy-IAA, 7-hydroxy-IAA, 7-methoxy-IAA and a compound that can be converted into free IAA in one or more steps ~~3, preferably in 2 and more preferably in 1 step~~.

2. (Previously Presented) A feed composition according to claim 1 comprising up to 40 g of free IAA or a derivative thereof per kilogram.

3. (Currently Amended) A feed composition according to claims 1 ~~or 2~~ comprising between 100 and 1000 mg of free IAA or a derivative thereof per kilogram.

4. (Currently Amended) A feed composition according to claims 1 ~~to 3~~ additionally comprising an enzyme capable of converting the derivative into free IAA.

5. (Previously Presented) A feed composition according to claim 4 comprising an aromatic ring wherein the aromatic ring is substituted on one or more of the 4, 5, 6 and 7 position with methyl, amino, nitro, fluoride, chloride, bromide or iodide.

6. (Currently Amended) A feed composition according to claims 1, wherein the feed composition is ~~to 5~~ in the form of at least one of pellets, meal, grains, extruded or expanded grains, tablets, powder ~~or and~~ bolus forms.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for at least one of increasing the growth rate and/or improving at least one of the feed efficiency, and/or the feed conversion rate and/or the immunity of a non-human animal, the method comprising administering to said animal an effective amount of a composition according to claims 1—6.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Use~~ A method, comprising:
using free IAA or a derivative thereof, wherein said derivative is selected from the group consisting of 4-hydroxy-IAA, 4-methoxy-IAA, 5-hydroxy-IAA, 5-methoxy-IAA, 6-hydroxy-IAA, 6-methoxy-IAA, 7-hydroxy-IAA, 7-methoxy-IAA and a compound that can be converted into free IAA in ~~3, preferably in 2 and more preferably in 1 step~~ for the preparation of a therapeutical composition for stimulating the immune system in non-human animals in need of such a treatment.

9. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
using Use of a composition according to claims 1 —6 for the preparation of a therapeutical composition for at least one of stimulating growth and/or stimulating the immune system in animals in need of such a treatment.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Use~~ A method according to claims 8, ~~or 9~~ wherein the free IAA or a derivative thereof is capable of increasing the serum level of insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1).

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Use~~ A method according to claims ~~8 — 10~~, wherein the animal has a lowered level of IGF-1.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Use~~ A method according to claims 8, ~~— 11~~ wherein the animals have at least one of a growth deficit and/or a weakened immune system.

13. (Currently Amended) Method for the preparation of an animal feed composition, said method comprising:

—admixing a composition according to claims 1 —6 with at least one ~~or more~~ feed substance(s) or ingredient(s) in order to obtain an animal feed composition according to claims 1—6.

14. (Currently Amended) Method for the preparation of an animal feed composition, said method comprising:

~~the step of~~ supplementing an animal feed with free IAA or a derivative thereof in order to obtain an animal feed composition according to claims 1—6.

15. (Currently Amended) Method for raising non-human animals comprising:
mixing an effective dose of free IAA or a derivative thereof with a feed material in order to obtain a feed composition according to claims 1—6, suitable for a particular animal species; and feeding said species with the feed material.

16. (New) A feed composition according to claim 2 comprising between 100 and 1000 mg of free IAA or a derivative thereof per kilogram.

17. (New) A feed composition according to claim 2 additionally comprising an enzyme capable of converting the derivative into free IAA.

18. (New) A method according to claim 9, wherein the free IAA or a derivative thereof is capable of increasing the serum level of insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1).